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Branch at
The Hague
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Département à
La Haye
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31. Jan. 2003

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Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

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Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

00964652.2

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Daicel Chemical Industries. Ltd.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- ☐ the European search report
- ☐ the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- ☒ the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

- ☐ Abstract ☐ Title ☐ Figure
- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.
- ☐ The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.

Figure:

- ☒ Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





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31.10.02

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

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Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Daicel Chemical Industries, Ltd.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The Search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,—) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.

This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.

See also OJ EPO 06/1999, 405.

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.



REGISTERED LETTER



European Patent
Office

**SUPPLEMENTARY
EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number
EP 00 96 4652

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Y	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 136 (M-1572), 7 March 1994 (1994-03-07) -& JP 05 319199 A (TAKATA KK), 3 December 1993 (1993-12-03) * abstract *	1,2,26, 27	B60R21/26
A	---	19,25	
Y	US 5 765 866 A (ADAMS JOHN HERMAN ET AL) 16 June 1998 (1998-06-16) * column 3, line 53 - column 4, line 4 * * column 11, line 53 - column 12, line 55; figures *	1-3,5,6, 26,27	
Y	EP 0 733 519 A (MORTON INT INC) 25 September 1996 (1996-09-25) * column 3, line 33 - column 6, line 14; figures 1,2 *	3,5,6	
X	US 5 756 928 A (MURAKAMI MASA HARU ET AL) 26 May 1998 (1998-05-26) * abstract; figure 1 *	7-9, 11-13, 26,27	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 778 181 A (MORTON INT INC) 11 June 1997 (1997-06-11) * abstract; figures 1-7,8A,8B *	7-10,12, 14,26,27	B60R
A	GB 2 281 608 A (EMS PATVAG AG) 8 March 1995 (1995-03-08) * abstract; figure 11 *	7-14	
Y	DE 298 09 062 U (TRW AIRBAG SYS GMBH & CO KG) 8 October 1998 (1998-10-08) * page 3, line 17 - page 4, line 27; figure 1 *	15-18, 26,27	
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 10 January 2003	Examiner Lecomte, D
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C04)



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
⑧ Y ✓	DE 195 22 847 C (AUTOLIV DEV) 20 February 1997 (1997-02-20) * column 1, line 1 - line 6 * * column 2, line 41 - line 44 *	15-18, 26,27	
⑨ A ✓	US 5 936 195 A (WHEATLEY BRIAN K) 10 August 1999 (1999-08-10) * abstract; figures *	15-18	
⑩ A ✓	US 5 536 340 A (RAMASWAMY COODLY P) 16 July 1996 (1996-07-16) * column 1, line 7 - column 2, line 13 * * column 6, line 36 - line 37; claim 11 *	15,16	
⑪ A ✓	EP 0 783 997 A (SENSOR TECH KK ;NIPPON KAYAKU KK (JP)) 16 July 1997 (1997-07-16) * page 10, line 52,53; claim 5; figure 1 *	19,20	
⑫ A ✓	EP 0 926 015 A (DAICEL CHEM) 30 June 1999 (1999-06-30) * column 21, line 18 - line 38; claim 18; figure 16 *	19,21-24	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 10 January 2003	Examiner Lecomte, D
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</div> <div>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div>			



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-2, 26, 27

Gas generator with two combustion chambers and a communication hole, this hole being closed by a metal thin plate having a tensile strenght of 15 kg/mm² or more and a thickness of 10 to 200 micrometer.

2. Claims: 3-6, 26, 27

Gas generator with a cylindrical housing, and two concentrically combustion chambers and a communication hole, this hole being closed by a metal thin plate having a tensile strenght of 15 kg/mm² or more and a thickness of 10 to 200 micrometer.

3. Claims: 7-14, 26, 27

Gas generator wherein a flame discharge portion of the igniter and the transfer charge face each other at least partially, and an area ratio of an area of the flame discharge portion to an area of the transfer charge is set to 0.005 to 0.3

4. Claims: 15-18, 26, 27

Gas generator with a transfer charge of a density in the range of 0.1 to 5 g/cm³

5. Claims: 19-25, 26, 27

Gas generator with two combustion chambers communicating by a hole which is closed by a plurality of metal thin plates layered through an adhesive



CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 96 4652

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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10-01-2003

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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